## MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**UTICA AND ROME, NEW YORK**

**COURSE OUTLINE**

# **SO202 - Marriage and Family C-3, P-0, Cr-3**

**Course Description:**

This course explores two of the major social institutions, marriage and family. Sociological theory provides an understanding of the interconnection between these institutions and other social institutions, such as the economy, religion, education, and government. Changing forms and functions of marriage and family are examined in historical and cross-cultural perspectives, while aspects and issues confronting contemporary families are topics of importance.

**Prerequisite: SO101 Introduction to Sociology**

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Students will be able to:

1. Use of basic terms and concepts applicable to studies of marriage and family.

2. Explain the role that personal values play in intimate relationships.

3. Differentiate observation skills, research methods and application of concepts used in sociology\*

4. Demonstrate their knowledge of the American family in historical and cross-cultural perspective.

5. Compare the different forms of family as they occur in different times and places.

6. Describe of myths related to marriage and family.

7. Evaluate the factors involved in mate selection.

8. Explain the impact the parenthood has on marital relationships

9. Describe the disruptive elements in family life.

10. Explain the social facts related to divorce.

11. Describe the social facts concerning the nature and extent of alternatives to conventional American family life.

12. Appraise the role of the American family now and in the future by describing the basic functions of the family.

**Major Topics:**

I. Socio-historical development of the institution of family.

II. Changes in the institution of family.

III. The American family in cross-cultural perspective.

IV. Mate selection and parenthood.

V. Disruptive elements in family life.

VI. Alternatives to conventional American family life.